

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of integrating a new source of supply into an electronic purchasing process, the method comprising:

initiating an electronic purchasing process on a purchasing computing system having an internal contact directory of suppliers and information related to the suppliers, wherein the internal contact directory is hosted by a service provider of the purchasing computing system;

providing, as part of the initiated electronic purchasing process, a sourcing graphical user interface on a display device of the purchasing computing system, the sourcing graphical user interface having a first user entry area to enter, as a source of supply in the electronic purchasing process, a supplier included in the internal contact directory, the sourcing graphical user interface further having a second area to initiate a search for additional suppliers not included in the internal contact directory, the second area including a user-selectable listing of at least one external contact directory of suppliers wherein each of the listed at least one external contact directory is user selectable, each of the at least one external contact directory being hosted by an external service provider that is not the service provider of the purchasing computing system and the internal contact directory;

[[upon]] receiving a user selection of one of the listed at least one external contact directory, and upon receiving the user selection, establishing electronic communication, by the purchasing computing system, with the selected external contact directory, and receiving information from the selected external contact directory to provide, on the display device of the purchasing computing system, a display of a directory of the suppliers in the selected external contact directory;

upon receiving, at the purchasing computing system, a user selection of one of the suppliers included in the selected external contact directory, sending an electronic request from

the purchasing computing system and to the selected external contact directory, the electronic request identifying the selected supplier, and in response receiving an electronic response that includes predefined required information to create in the internal contact directory a contact entry for the selected supplier;

creating, using the information from the electronic response, a new contact entry in the internal contact directory, the new contact entry for the selected supplier; and
assigning the selected supplier as a source of supply in the electronic purchasing process.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said creating of the new contact entry comprises mapping parsed information from the electronic response into fields according to a partner interface protocol.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information received from the selected external contact directory comprises an HTML page.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information received from the selected external contact directory comprises an XML page.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic purchasing process requires a supplier contact.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising:
completing the electronic purchasing process with the new contact entry.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising generating a purchase order using the new contact entry.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining whether a user who initiated and is controlling the electronic purchasing
process has authority to approve the new contact entry.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
flagging the new contact entry as incomplete in response to determining the user does not
have said authority.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
generating a purchasing document with said new contact entry; and
flagging the purchasing document as on hold.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
determining an authorized approver for the new contact entry.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
generating an approval workflow item for the authorized approver.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising:
deleting the new contact entry from the internal directory in response to the authorized
approver not approving the new contact entry.

15-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A computing system comprising:
an internal contact directory including information relating to a plurality of suppliers;
a network device; and

an electronic procurement computing system hosted by a service provider that also hosts the internal contact directory, the electronic procurement system operative to:

initiate an electronic purchasing process on the electronic procurement system;

provide, as part of the initiated electronic purchasing process, a sourcing graphical user interface on a display device of the electronic purchasing computing system, the sourcing graphical user interface having a first user entry area to enter, as a source of supply in the electronic purchasing process, a supplier included in the internal contact directory, the sourcing graphical user interface further having a second area to initiate a search for additional suppliers not included in the internal contact directory, the second area including a user-selectable listing of at least one external contact directory, wherein each of the listed at least one external contact directory is user selectable;

~~upon receiving~~ receive a user selection of one of the listed at least one external contact directory, and upon receiving the user selection, establish electronic communication with the selected external contact directory, and ~~receiving~~ receive information from the selected external contact directory to provide, on the display device of the purchasing computing system, a display of a directory of the suppliers in the selected external contact directory;

upon receiving a user selection of one of the suppliers included in the selected external contact directory, send an electronic request to the selected external contact directory, the electronic request identifying the selected supplier, and in response receive an electronic response that includes predefined information to create in the internal contact directory a contact entry for the selected supplier;

create, using the information from the electronic response, a new contact entry in the internal contact directory, the new contact entry for the selected supplier; and

assign the selected supplier as a source of supply in the in the electronic purchasing process.

31. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 29, wherein the electronic procurement computing system is further operative to map parsed information from the electronic response into fields according to a partner interface protocol.

32. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 29, wherein the information received from the selected external contact directory comprises an HTML page.

33. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 29, wherein the information received from the selected external contact directory comprises an XML page.

34. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 29, wherein the electronic purchasing process requires a supplier contact.

35. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 34, wherein the electronic procurement computing system is further operative to:
complete the electronic purchasing process with the new contact entry.

36. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 35, wherein the electronic procurement system is further operative to:
generate a purchase order using the new contact entry.

37. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 29, further comprising:
determine whether a user who initiated and is controlling the electronic purchasing process has authority to approve the new contact entry.

38. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 37, wherein the electronic procurement computing system is further operative to:

flag the new contact entry as incomplete in response to determining the user does not have said authority.

39. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 38, wherein the electronic procurement computing system is further operative to:

generate a purchasing document with said new contact entry; and
flag the purchasing document as on hold.

40. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 34, wherein the electronic procurement computing system is further operative to:

determine an authorized approver for the new contact entry.

41. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 40, wherein the electronic procurement computing system is further operative to:

generate an approval workflow item for the authorized approver.

42. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 40, wherein the electronic procurement computing system is further operative to:

delete the new contact entry from the internal contact directory in response to the authorized approver not approving the new contact entry.